



REGION III - HUD MID-ATLANTIC

Regional Administrator Joe DeFelice

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



December 11, 2020



### Lowe's Officially Announces Partnership in Baltimore, Maryland

I've spent a lot of time in Charm City this week (virtually) without even making the 222-mile roundtrip! First and foremost, **this week Lowe's Companies, Inc. officially announced a multi-year commitment to improve economic mobility in the Southwest Baltimore community by addressing affordable housing and driving skilled trades employment.** The three-year initiative, which represents a commitment of more than \$2 million, will include completing critical home repairs for 45 homeowners, increasing workforce development efforts and improving local recreation centers, parks and green areas.

One of our key priorities at HUD is to help the individuals and families we serve become economically independent and self-sufficient. Lowe's multi-year commitment will empower residents in the Poe Homes neighborhood to reach their potential by providing the support

they need to succeed—economic opportunity, educational advancement and safe affordable housing.

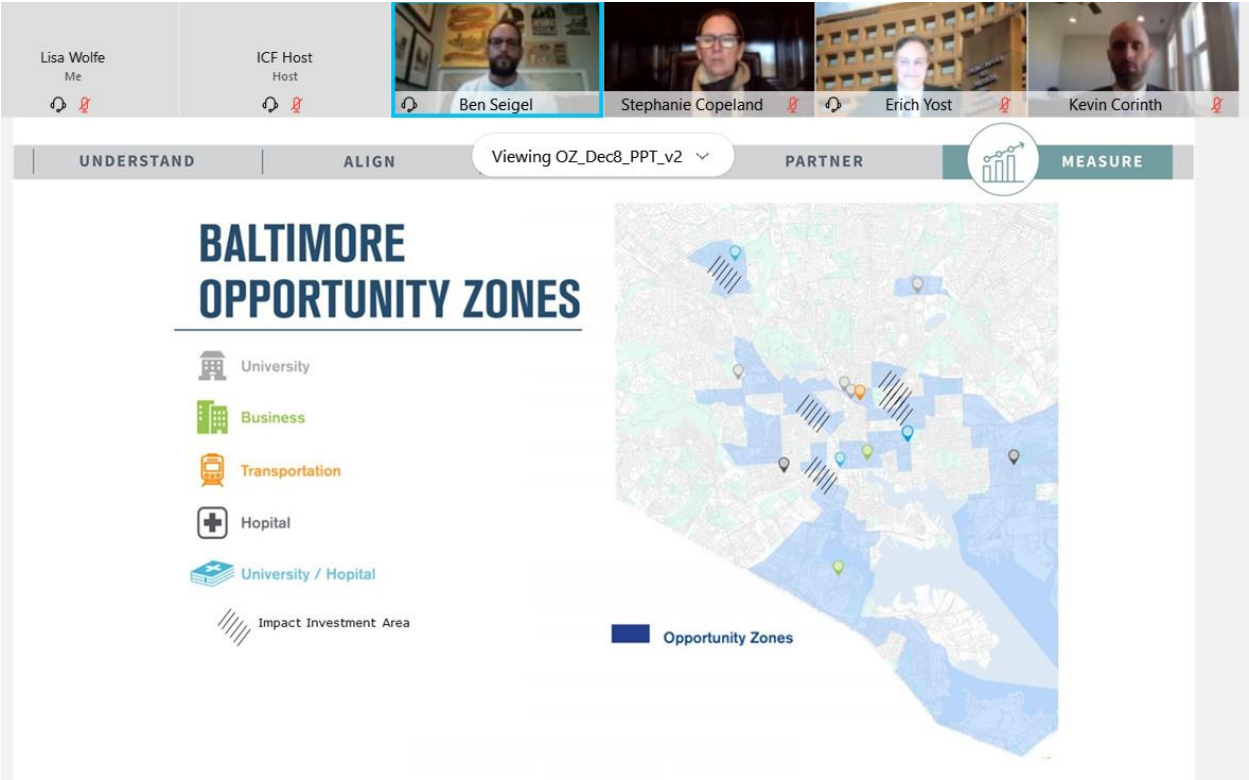


Since late last year, we have been exploring this public-private partnership with Lowe's, with our Baltimore Field Office Director Carol Payne helping to lead the initiative. What began as a dialogue about building a community park and renovating blighted housing in Southwest Baltimore morphed into a rich discussion of a bottom-up approach to neighborhood revitalization, job training and employment opportunities. Thank you to everyone involved, especially Lowe's and Southwest Partnerships, Inc., for being such strong partners in getting this one-of-a-kind project up and running. We look forward to seeing the life-changing results it will bring.





Back in January, I joined Director Payne and Lowe’s, Southwest Partnership, Inc. and the University of Maryland-Baltimore in touring and assessing needs in the community. Pictured above is Michael Seipp of Southwest Partnerships, Inc., (center) leading the tour in Southwest Baltimore alongside (clockwise) me and the Lowe’s team, including Mike Mitchell, Shane Gagne, Betsy Conway and Reginald Henderson.



**ICYMI: Baltimore Opportunity Zones Featured in Series of HUD OZ Webinars**  
“In Case You Missed It,” the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council and HUD are hosting a webinar series, **Bolstering Growth in Opportunity Zones**, for local economic development leaders and stakeholders in communities with designated Opportunity Zones (OZs). The three-part series is designed to assist participants in developing their own action plan to support short- and long-term community objectives for potential investments in OZs. During the second webinar, **Baltimore Development Corp. Opportunity Zone Coordinator Benjamin Seigel discussed his efforts to promote development in Charm City’s 42 Opportunity Zones**. There’s still time to sign up for the third installment, **Develop Your OZ Action Plan to Build or Strengthen Your Local OZ Ecosystem**, scheduled for December 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. The



discussion on best practices for community engagement to bolster investments in OZs will feature Delaware's Second Chances Farm founder Ajit George. For more information and to sign-up, [click here](#). All three webinars will be posted on HUD Exchange at a later date.

### Mid-Atlantic Opportunity Zones Highlighted in The New York Times

If you haven't read Joe Gose's article, [Despite Challenges, Opportunity Zones Provide Much-Needed Capital](#) published November 24, 2020 in *The New York Times*, I encourage you to take a few minutes for a quick glance. You'll find the references to a number of Mid-Atlantic-based projects and insight into how communities are utilizing Opportunity Zones to add jobs and housing using available tax incentives. You'll also see a familiar name, Benjamin Seigel, who was hired two years ago to "match developers with opportunity zone funds and enhance community participation in the deals. The article cites that according to Seigel, some 80 projects are in the pipeline Baltimore's 42 opportunity zones ranging from the \$90 million redevelopment of Penn Station to the conversion of four abandoned row homes into work force housing and ground-floor commercial space that will be geared toward Black-owned and community businesses. You'll also learn more about improvements in the District of Columbia's Buzzard Point neighborhood and in Baltimore's southeast neighborhood of Greektown. Definitely worth a read.



National NAHRO  
@NAHROnational

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Our next 2021 [#WhatHomeMeansToMe](#) calendar winner is Braxton, age 13, of Va. She says "home is where love grows. Its where our hearts live and my family is safe." See all of this year's artwork here: [ow.ly/fhhV50CAW2t](https://ow.ly/fhhV50CAW2t)



### NAHRO's 2021 "What Home Means to Me" Calendar—Special Edition

The word "Home" has taken on an extra special meaning this year as we all redefined our personal living quarters into workplace settings and classrooms in response to the pandemic. So, many thanks to **Bristol Redevelopment and Housing Authority Executive Director Lisa Porter** for giving us an extra excuse to look forward to the day when the calendar flips to **January 2021**. "We are so proud of **Braxton G.** for being selected to have her artwork included in the 2021 'What Home Means to Me' poster calendar!" Turns out the 13-year-old's artwork is one of 13 award-winning entries to be featured in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) soon-to-be-published calendar. According to the



organization's website, NAHRO's annual contest recognizes the amazing, poignant art of children who live in affordable housing across the country. Each piece of art visually shares the child's thoughts on what their home means to them. Each year since 2008, hundreds of children, ages 5-18, have participated in the contest. Their heartfelt messages about their homes underscore the importance of the work that housers and community development professionals do. Not only will Braxton's artwork be featured in the calendar, which is shared with all members of Congress, local leaders and the NAHRO membership, each winner also receives a \$100 Visa gift card. The contest is part of the agency's Housing America public awareness campaign, which seeks to raise national awareness of the need for and importance of safe, quality, affordable housing through education, advocacy and empowerment. For additional details about the poster contest, [click here](#).

### \$4.2 Million to Permanently House Mid-Atlantic Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

DC: \$1,468,637	→	87 vouchers
DE: \$83,607	→	10 vouchers
MD: \$1,108,632	→	120 vouchers
PA: \$892,418	→	126 vouchers
VA: \$736,562	→	89 vouchers



**HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program**

### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY: Fiscal Year 2020 Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants deadline is next Wednesday, December 16.

With the publication of this Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), HUD is making available up to \$182,000,000 for Implementation Grants. Posted on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), applications are due on December 16, 2020. Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans that are expected to replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood; improve outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children's education, and create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community. Since 2010, six \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants have been awarded in Region III including Baltimore, Maryland, Newport News and Norfolk in Virginia and in Philadelphia (2 awards) and Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania. **That's a total of \$180 million invested in improving communities throughout the Mid-Atlantic.**

Stay safe, stay sane and be well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe', with a large loop at the end.

Joe DeFelice, Region III Regional Administrator  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Region III Recap, December 11, 2020

**Region III Recap & HUDLines, HUD's Region III e-News Brief**

We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your news with Lisa A. Wolfe at [lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov](mailto:lisa.a.wolfe@hud.gov). If you know anyone who would like to receive our new Region III Recap or our quarterly HUDLines, please feel free to share. We safeguard and do not rent, sell or permit the use of our lists. To subscribe, visit [HUDLines](#). You may also [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

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